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OST 1997-2515-24



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

MAR 30 2005

The Honorable Kenny Hulshof  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

~~Kenny~~  
Dear Congressman Hulshof:

This letter addresses the issues you raised in your letter of February 3, cosigned by Senator Bond and Senator Talent, regarding the continuation of air service at Kirksville, Missouri, under the Essential Air Service (EAS) program and the importance of that air service to the economy of northeast Missouri.

As you know, on December 29, 2004, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued Order 2004-12-13 proposing to terminate the eligibility of Kirksville to receive subsidized air service because the current subsidy cost has exceeded the statutory ceiling of \$200 per passenger based on the community's most recent passenger traffic levels. Before taking any final action, the Department's procedures afford the community the opportunity to work with interested carriers on proposals for service that would continue air service at Kirksville within the \$200 passenger cap. In response to the invitation in Order 2004-12-13, the Department has received and is now analyzing several proposals to continue EAS at the community.

Because the EAS situation at Kirksville is currently under review, I am sure you understand that I cannot comment on the merits of the case. I assure you, however, that the Department will consider all of the issues and concerns raised by the State of Missouri and the Kirksville community before making a final decision.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and my response in Docket OST-1997-2515 as a contact outside the record of this proceeding. Similar letters have been sent to Senator Bond and Senator Talent.

I appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

  
Norman Y. Mineta

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DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKETS



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

MAR 30 2005

The Honorable Christopher Bond  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

~~Dear Senator Bond:~~  
**KIT:**

This letter addresses the issues you raised in your letter of February 3, cosigned by Senator Talent and Congressman Hulshof, regarding the continuation of air service at Kirksville, Missouri, under the Essential Air Service (EAS) program and the importance of that air service to the economy of northeast Missouri.

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Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Y. Mineta', is written over a vertical line.

Norman Y. Mineta



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

MAR 30 2005

The Honorable Jim Talent  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

*Jim:*  
~~Dear Senator Talent:~~

This letter addresses the issues you raised in your letter of February 3, cosigned by Senator Bond and Congressman Hulshof, regarding the continuation of air service at Kirksville, Missouri, under the Essential Air Service (EAS) program and the importance of that air service to the economy of northeast Missouri.

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I appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature of Norman Y. Mineta, consisting of a stylized 'N' and 'M' followed by a flourish.

Norman Y. Mineta

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 3, 2005

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Documentary Services and Media Management Division  
M-30, Room PL-401  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Mineta,

Subject: Essential Air Service Program – Kirksville, Missouri  
Docket OST – 1997-2515

Please note our strong support of Kirksville, Missouri's effort to keep their Essential Air Service (EAS) support. We know that without EAS funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), commercial air service cannot be sustained to Kirksville. We are confident that such service will continue to be a valuable asset to the community and foster economic growth in Kirksville and Northeast Missouri.

Kirksville is home to two nationally accredited universities. Combined, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine and Truman State University serve almost 7,000 students from more than 37 states and 50 foreign countries. These students and their parents depend on commercial air service to reach Kirksville.

Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine uses the air service to bring faculty and staff from their training sites into Kirksville for meetings and conferences. These training sites are located in eight states around the country. Taking into account the considerable distance involved in traveling to and from these sites, commercial air service is the only way to bring these professionals back to the home campus. Additionally, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine's students conduct training at these distant facilities and depend on commercial air service to return to the main campus for testing and other official activities.

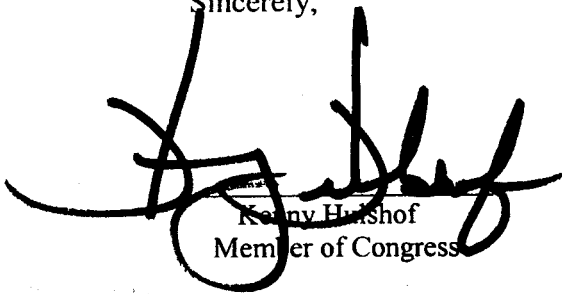
Northeast Missouri has just recently seen a revival in economic development. Ending EAS support for flights to Kirksville will certainly hurt this recovery. Viable commercial air service is vital in attracting businesses and industrial leaders who are considering a move to the Kirksville area. For example, the Kirksville Regional Economic Development Inc. is engaged in an active marketing campaign to attract a new owner for

a vacant 190,000 square foot office building in downtown Kirksville. The continuation of commercial air service to Kirksville is an important component of this effort.

We understand that due to a decrease in passenger numbers on Corporate Airlines flights between Lambert International Airport and Kirksville, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is prohibited from continuing the EAS subsidy as it is currently designed. Kirksville is continuing to work with air carriers to formulate a new plan that will meet the program requirements. When this proposal is submitted, we respectfully ask you to work for its approval and the continued EAS support for commercial flights to Kirksville.

We appreciate your giving this important matter the attention it deserves.

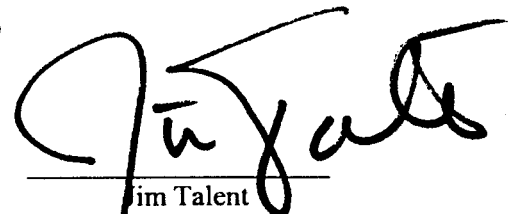
Sincerely,



Kenny Hulshof  
Member of Congress



Christopher "Kit" Bond  
U.S. Senator



Jim Talent  
U.S. Senator